

REMARKS

The requirement for a new oath or declaration is acknowledged. A new declaration was filed in the USPTO on May 27, 2008 and is in compliance with the requirement. Confirmation of the new declaration in the next office action is requested.

Claims 1-4 have been amended. The application includes claims 1-4.

Claim 1 has been amended to a format more suited to US practice wherein separate elements are set forth in an indented paragraph structure. The salient features which distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art remain in the claim. Claim 1 as amended eliminates the use of "can be" language and should be in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Dependent claims 2-4 have been amended to correct for antecedent basis and other grammatical issues.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 were rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0148315 to Mittendorf in view of U.S. Patent 2,418,555 to Kirsten. Claim 3 was rejected as being obvious over Mittendorf in view of official notice. Each of these rejections are traversed.

At the outset, it should be clear that Mittendorf discloses an adjustable speed reducer assembly which employs a two part worm drive. This is not a bevel gear drive as is set forth in the claims. Furthermore, Mittendorf is not related to a mechanisms for providing accurately reproducible mounting of bevel gear transmissions, as is the case in the present invention.

In addition, an important aspect of the invention lies in the fact that the bearing housing may be adjusted by turning it within the thread without detaching the fastening ring 9, and the adjustment of the bearing housing within the guide is provided through the opening 3 of the transmission housing.

In Mittendorf, the first part is connected to the input shaft 24, and the second worm segment 36 is a floating worm segment which is axially shiftable on the input shaft 24 under the pressure of a pressure spring 62 (see Figure 1 of Mittendorf). The end (splined portion 40) of the input shaft 24 is connected to the inner (rotating) part of a bearing assembly 60, whereas the outer (stationary) part is mounted within the housing 20. The adjuster 64 is able to push the bearing assembly 60 inward so as to compress the pressure spring 62. The adjuster 64

consequently adjusts the spring force (see paragraph [0035], but does not directly adjust the position of the floating worm segment 36. The adjuster 64 has an external thread which cooperates with the adjuster cap 74 which is mounted to the housing 20 through screws 76.

In view of this, the adjuster cap of Mittendorf may be compared with the fastening ring 9 of the present invention (see Figure 1). However, Mittendorf does not show an arrangement where a rotating shaft extends through the adjuster. Claim 1 specifically requires a shaft positioned on a bevel wheel projects out of the transmission housing through a passage orifice.

In addition, according to the present invention, the adjuster is formed by the cylindrical bearing housing 6 which has the externally threaded portion 7 on its surface so as to cooperate with internal thread 13 of the fastening ring 9 (see Figure 1).

There is no disclosure or hint in Mittendorf not to use a separate adjuster 64. In contrast, in the present invention, the bearing housing 6 is used to perform an adjustment of the position of the teeth of bevel wheel 4 with teeth of a different bevel wheel 4' where the teeth of the bevel wheel are arranged so as to engage the teeth of the other bevel wheel.

Kirsten does not make up for the shortcomings of Mittendorf. Kirsten discloses an arrangement of more than one bevel wheels on the same input shaft 1 cooperating with correspondingly different tooth rings 21, 22 on a different disk. Although there is mentioned an axial shift of the input (I) shaft 1, Kirsten does not disclose a bearing housing 6 (as is recited in the claimed invention) being used as an adjustment device independently from a mounting and locking device.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1-4 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any

fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Whitham", is written over the typed name.

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